

APRIL 2004

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WANTED YOUR WEB SITE FEEDBACK

YOU CAN HAVE A SAY IN THE REDESIGN of the City's Web site. Register to participate in one of two focus groups at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, on **Thursday, April 29, at 2 p.m. or 7 p.m.** To register or for more information contact Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818, or dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



OXBORO LIBRARY REOPENS

THE NEWLY RENOVATED OXBORO Library, 8801 Portland Avenue South, reopens with a community celebration of music, refreshments and entertainment on April 17. New features include self-service checkout; a new automated book drop; computers with Internet access and word processing; a new World Languages area; and expanded quiet study areas. For more information, visit www.hclib.org.

POPLAR BRIDGE LEARNING FAIR

COME TO FAMILY FUN NIGHT AND learn all about the environment on **Friday, May 21, from 6 – 8 p.m.** at **Poplar Bridge Elementary**, 8401 Palmer Avenue South. Come celebrate Earth Day.



SUMMER SPECTRUM

YOUTH, GET READY FOR A FUN-FILLED season of classes, camps, sports and activities. *See page 4.*

A MIGHTY OAK A LIVING PIECE OF HISTORY...

WHILE REMOVING INVASIVE BUCKTHORN AT WEST BUSH Lake, Parks Maintenance staff and community volunteers uncovered a tree that is estimated to be more than 100 years old. Hidden by an enormous tangle of buckthorn was a bur oak that is approximately 60 feet high and 42 inches in diameter. A long-living majestic tree with an impressive crown, massive trunk and long-reaching branches, the bur oak is a sight to behold. More than 20 truckloads of unwanted plant material were removed. With the buckthorn gone, native flowers and plants in the seedbed around the tree may soon begin to grow. For more information, call 952-563-8762.

For more on buckthorn, see page 7.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN 2004 STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BEGIN

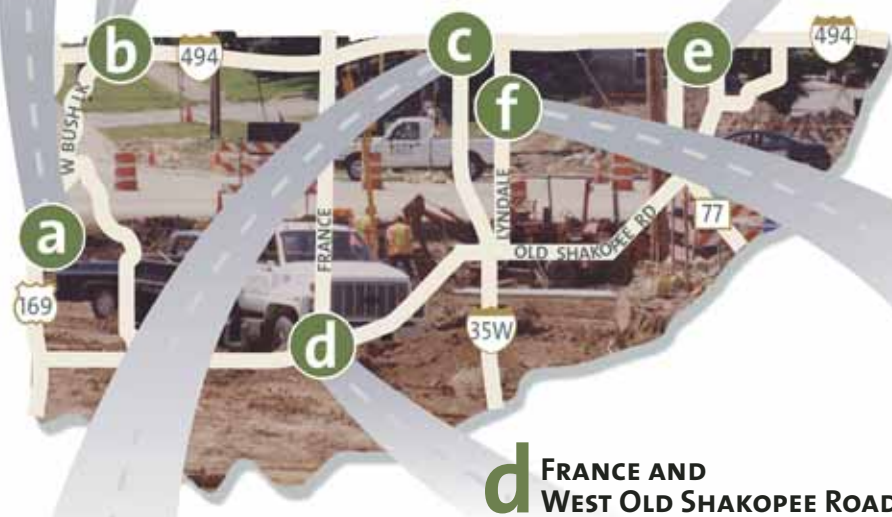
ROAD CONSTRUCTION PAVES THE WAY FOR SAFER, MORE EFFICIENT AND LESS-congested roadways in Bloomington. For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Construction.

a NEW INTERCHANGES AT TH169

Work will begin this spring to eliminate stoplights and build bridges on TH169. Construction will begin at Pioneer Trail. Once completed, the construction at Bloomington Ferry Road will begin. The bridges will be operational in late 2005.

b I-494 THIRD LANE PROJECT

This spring, the I-494 Third Lane project will continue west of France. The old railroad bridge at West Bush Lake Road will be removed; a new bridge has already been installed. Completion is scheduled for late summer 2005.



d FRANCE AND WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD

Reconstruction of the intersection, designed to increase traffic capacity and safety, will begin in April. Improvements that include double left-turn lanes, right-turn lanes and a reconstructed traffic signal will be substantially complete by fall 2004.

c AMERICAN BOULEVARD BRIDGE OVER I-35

Construction of a bridge over I-35W in the American Boulevard corridor is scheduled to begin this summer and will take approximately 18 months to complete. The bridge will include two westbound and two eastbound lanes, a concrete median, and an eight-foot wide bike and pedestrian path in each direction. A federal grant will fund 80 percent of construction costs. The City of Bloomington and the Minnesota Department of Transportation will also support the project.

e LINDAU LANE FROM TH77 TO 24TH AVENUE

Widening and reconstructing one of Airport South's main links will accommodate the increased traffic due to the Mall of America's Phase II development. The project is funded through assessments to the Mall and Airport South tax increment funds. Work will begin in April and is scheduled for completion in fall 2004.

24TH AVENUE TEMPORARY CLOSURE

As part of the construction of light rail to the Mall of America, 24th Avenue between Killebrew Drive and 82nd Street will be closed beginning in April and will reopen in July 2004. Detours will be set up to route travelers around this closure. Light rail is scheduled to begin service in December 2004.

f LYNDAL AVENUE FROM I-494 TO W. 82ND STREET

Lyndale Avenue will be widened and reconstructed between I-494 and West 82nd Street beginning in June with substantial completion by fall 2004. Improvements will fit with the Lyndale Avenue bridge over I-494 that is tentatively scheduled for reconstruction in 2005-2006. A federal grant will fund 80 percent of street construction costs.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

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DESTINATION BLOOMINGTON

BUREAU CONTRIBUTES TO A THRIVING COMMUNITY

By Mayor Gene Winstead

SITUATED ON THE MINNESOTA RIVER IN the heart of the metropolitan area, our city boasts thousands of acres of parks, trees and open space. As spring settles in, Bloomington will surely live up to its name that means “flowering field.”

But to visitors Bloomington also goes by another name, “The City of Hospitality.” Its central location and proximity to the International Airport make Bloomington a destination leader for meetings, tourists and conventions. The Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau (BCVB) works to keep our city on the map.

Hospitality is Bloomington’s number one industry. More than 20,000 people are employed in hotels, restaurants and the Mall of America. The BCVB helps this industry thrive by promoting Bloomington, its hotels, businesses and attractions to visitors from around the world.

President and CEO Bonnie Carlson, who has been with the BCVB for 19 years, started encouraging tourism when Bloomington began building hotels. Then, one person was distributing brochures. Today with a staff of 18, the BCVB is the second largest visitors and convention bureau in Minnesota and is recognized nationally and internationally.

“The BCVB works hard to bring in business and we have a great success ratio,” Carlson said. “In 2003, 70 percent of the 1,005 groups who indicated that they were interested in coming to Bloomington brought their meetings here.”

Marketing Bloomington requires a lot of advertising and the BCVB has had

tremendous success with the Internet. On their Web site, www.bloomingtonmn.org, you can book a hotel and find out more about attractions in and around Bloomington. In 2003, approximately one-half million users viewed Bloomington through the site and 40,000 registered users regularly ask for information regarding our city. The site includes:

- Online hotel reservations and packages with prices, services and amenities.
- Area maps.
- Attractions and activities.
- Dining and nightlife.
- Calendar of Twin Cities area events.

“When people are looking to travel or for a place to hold a meeting, they often turn to the Internet,” Carlson said. “In 2003, the BCVB’s Web site traffic increased 136 percent.”

Carlson said the BCVB is a success because it is self-supporting.

“Visitors pay a lodging tax,” Carlson said. “The BCVB receives a portion from that, of which 70 percent goes back into promoting Bloomington.”

Visitors benefit Bloomington. They spend money that circulates into the local and state economy, helping many businesses. The lodging tax is a great economic benefit to the City. Tax revenue supports almost 10 percent, or \$4.2 million, of the City’s General Fund Budget. A portion of the lodging tax is also used to help pay back bonds that the City issued for infrastructure improvements around the Mall of America.

For more information, call Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau at 952-858-8500 or visit www.bloomingtonmn.org.

SALUTING EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

The Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau recognizes that quality service from the hospitality industry brings people back to Bloomington. Eight years ago, the Diamond Service Awards was introduced to recognize outstanding service in hotel, restaurant and retail businesses. Housekeeping,



Bonnie Carlson with the Grand Marshal Snoopy at this year’s Diamond Service Awards.

front desk personnel, wait staff, dishwashers, retail staff and others are nominated by their managers. In 2002, the City of Bloomington and the Advisory Board of Health joined with the Diamond Service Awards to sponsor a Food Safety Award. Considered the hospitality industry’s “Academy Awards,” a total of 290 nominations were submitted for this year’s event.

UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS

SOME OF BLOOMINGTON’S UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS RADIATE FROM THE Airport South District where many of our city’s hotels, restaurants and retail business are located.

MALL OF AMERICA

The nation’s largest entertainment and retail complex welcomes more than 42 million guests each year and is the nation’s number one visited attraction.

IKEA

Mall of America’s Phase II begins with this 330,000 square foot home furnishings store that is scheduled to open in summer 2004.

CAMP SNOOPY

The largest indoor theme entertainment park in America includes 25 rides and attractions, six shops, three stages nine places to eat, and, of course, characters from the *Peanuts* comic strip.



UNDERWATER ADVENTURES

The world’s largest underground aquarium features sharks, stingrays and giant sea turtles.

MINNESOTA VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE

This 12 square mile natural wonder is one of only four urban wildlife refuges in the nation.

BRIEFING

Volume 12, Number 2

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed directly to our residents and businesses. Direct comments to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us. If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby.

Visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

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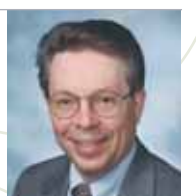
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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, APRIL 2004



visit www.bloomingtonmn.org

NEW SERVICE MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE APPROVED AS PASSPORT AGENT



BLOOMINGTON'S MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE NOW ACCEPTS passport applications. Located at 9930 Logan Avenue South, the Motor Vehicle Office also provides passport photo service, driver's license renewal, and motor vehicle, boat, snowmobile and ATV licensing services. Hours are Monday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Passport, or call 952-563-8719.

ELECTIONS HELD THIS FALL

HERE ARE ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE MOST frequently asked questions regarding the 2004 elections.

- Q. When are the elections?**
A. State Primary Election: September 14.
State General Election: November 2.
- Q. What offices will be on the ballot in 2004?**
A. U.S. President and Vice President.
U.S. Representative District 3.
State Representative Districts 40B, 41B and 63B.
State Judicial Offices.
County Commissioner District 5.
- Q. When are polling places open?**
A. Polling places are open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Election Day.
- Q. Can I get time off from work to vote?**
A. Yes. Minnesota law allows you to take time off from work without loss of salary or wages to vote during the morning of state elections.



- Q. Where do I vote?**
A. There are 32 precinct-polling locations in Bloomington. Vote at your assigned precinct. Precinct maps and locations will be published in the August and October Bloomington Briefings. For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Voting, or call Voter Registration at 952-563-8729.



PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPROVING THE LIFE OF CITY STREETS

THE CITY IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT Bloomington streets are serviceable, safe, functional and maintained at a reasonable cost to meet the needs of residents and the traveling public.

Public Works relies on the Pavement Management Program to identify, inventory and track street condition. Under the program, selected streets receive an overlay (resurfacing the top-wearing pavement) or a full reconstruction (complete rebuilding of the pavement structure). For the best use of maintenance dollars, staff regularly updates the condition of each street in a database. This ensures the right maintenance at the right time.

In 2004, the City will reconstruct 5.1 miles, overlay 7.4 miles and sealcoat 40 miles of residential roadways. For more information, call Engineering at 952-563-4870. For a complete listing of proposed street projects, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Construction.



CLEANING UP AFTER WINTER STREET SWEEPING BEGINS

AROUND THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, STREET Maintenance launches its annual spring-cleaning campaign to rid city streets of debris, dirt and sand left over from a winter of ice control. A clean sweep of all Bloomington streets takes about six to eight weeks.

To protect Nine Mile Creek and larger lakes from pollutants, streets in those areas are swept first. Crews work two weekday shifts, beginning at 4 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m., and then move into neighborhoods. Sweeping starting points are rotated each year.

Remember to keep a safe distance from street-cleaning equipment in operation. For more information, call 952-563-8760. View updates on the Bloomington Channel 14 and on the City's Web site at ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: My world.

WORKING TOGETHER COLLABORATIVE EFFORT PROVIDES REAL-LIFE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR DEMANDING DUTIES, police officers and firefighters must train regularly. They need to be well versed in the latest techniques that help them protect and serve the community. To help public safety personnel better face their on-the-job challenges, a joint public safety training facility opened last December. Approximately 600 police and fire personnel will regularly use the facility that provides real-life training opportunities. The \$6.5 million state-of-the-art facility features two indoor police firing ranges, classrooms and a defensive tactics training area.

Fire training facilities include a 6,000-square foot fire tower, residential fire structure and outdoor areas for simulated fire rescue scenarios.

The Southwest Metropolitan Joint Public Safety Training Center, located at 7525 Braemer Boulevard in Edina, is a collaborative effort of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Police Department and the Fire and Police Departments of the cities of Eden Prairie, Edina and Bloomington. Financing is shared by each of the entities based on the number of career or volunteer personnel.

Facility director Kevin Kelleher, a former Bloomington Police Sergeant and recently retired Wayzata Police Chief, said the training facility is a great achievement for Bloomington and its surrounding communities.

"The public safety training facility is truly an important investment in our communities," Kelleher said. "The performances of our police and fire personnel will save lives."



CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE ACTIVITIES.

YMCA TRI-CITY SKATE PARK

NEW FACILITY WILL BOWL YOU OVER

MINNESOTA’S FIRST IN-GROUND, concrete-bowl skate park has come to a city near you. The YMCA Tri-City Skate Park is located at Southdale YMCA, 7355 York Avenue, in Edina. This 20,000 square foot facility is a cooperative project between the YMCA and the cities of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield.



Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale said the skate park was created in response to numerous requests from youth and has already generated positive feedback. Since opening in October, 645 skaters have signed up to use the facility.

“The skate park has been received extremely well,” Quale said. “We’ve heard from skateboarders who have visited facilities throughout the upper Midwest that the YMCA Tri-City Skate Park is the best facility that they have ever used.”

Planning for the skate park included a task force of youth, ages 12- 16, with an active interest in skateboarding, in-line skating and biking. A concrete bowl snake design with street court elements on the side, the skate park offers enough variety to accommodate a range of skill levels with depths ranging from four to eleven feet.

Daily passes are \$4 for YMCA members and Bloomington, Edina and Richfield residents. For more information, call the Southdale YMCA at 952-835-2567.



DID YOU KNOW?

The skateboard first appeared in the 1950s – a modern-day version of the foot-powered scooter that had been around since the turn of the last century, but without the push bar in front.

SUMMER FUN



YOUTH SPORTS

GET MOVING FOR BETTER HEALTH

SWIMMING

BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

301 E. 90th Street

ENJOY ANOTHER SEASON OF family fun at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center. Amenities include a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play features, waterslides, diving boards, sand volleyball, bathhouse and concession stand.



When:	June 11 - August 22.		
Time:	Noon - 8 p.m.		
Cost:	<i>Age</i>	<i>Daily admission</i>	<i>After 5 p.m.</i>
	Under 1 year	Free	Free
	1-5 years	\$4.50	\$3.50
	6-54 years	\$6.50	\$4.50
	55+ years	\$4.50	\$3.50

Season passes

Family (2 people)	Resident:	\$70 + \$10 each additional + tax.
	Non-resident:	\$125 + \$10 each additional member + tax.
Individual	Resident:	\$35 + tax.
	Non-resident:	\$60 + tax.

Purchase your season passes here:
Super Sign-up on April 17.
Parks and Recreation office beginning April 26.
Aquatic Center on June 11.



BUSH LAKE BEACH

9140 E. Bush Lake Road

REACH FOR THE BEACH! CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER TO DO ON A HOT summer day? A daily or annual Three Rivers Park District pass is required for entrance to Bush Lake.

When:	June 11 - August 22.
Time:	Noon - 8 p.m.

SWIMMING LESSONS

SWIMMING LESSONS ARE AVAILABLE THIS summer at the Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach. Look for details in the *Summer Spectrum* brochure.

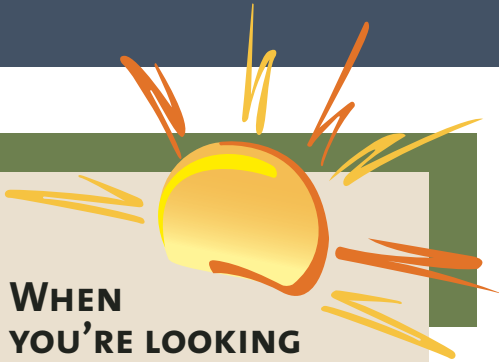
SUMMER SPECTRUM

A FUN-FILLED SEASON OF ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH

SPANNING EIGHT WEEKS, SUMMER SPECTRUM CLASSES WILL FOCUS ON YOUTH entering grades K through 9. Activities and camps include aquatics, tennis, art day camps, fishing, science, Spanish, biking, golf, reading, math and dance, to name a just a few. Classes and camps will be held at Oak Grove Elementary, 1300 W. 104th St., with limited bus transportation available.

To make planning easier, a catalog was mailed to the parents of school age children in Bloomington public schools. If you have not received a catalog or you need more information, call Parks and Recreation. The catalog is also on our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Spectrum.

Summer Spectrum is a program of Bloomington Public Schools’ Community Education, the City of Bloomington’s Parks and Recreation Division and the Bloomington Art Center.



WHEN YOU’RE LOOKING FOR SUMMER FUN

DATES TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Super Sign-up Saturday

Registration for all summer programs is at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, 9 - 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Registration continues at Parks and Recreation in Bloomington Civic Plaza.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach open.

MONDAY, JUNE 14

Summer Spectrum classes, Summer Playground program, Tiny Tots program and Arts in the Parks series begin.

AR&LE

THE ADAPTIVE RECREATION AND Learning Exchange (AR&LE) offers opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in recreation, leisure and community education programs in the four cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield.

ADAPTIVE YOUTH SOFTBALL

THIS PROGRAM TEACHES BASIC RULES and good sportsmanship in a non-threatening environment. Siblings and parents are invited to volunteer.

Who:	Boys and girls with disabilities, ages 10 - 18.
When:	Monday, June 14 - July 26, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Where:	Tarnhill Park Field #2, 9650 Little Rd.
Cost:	\$45 Resident; \$50 Non-resident. Includes team shirt.
Register:	Call Parks and Recreation.

ADAPTIVE ADULT CO-RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL LEAGUE

PLAYERS NEED TO BE ABLE TO FOLLOW simple directions and maintain a high interest in softball. Softball experience is not necessary.

Who:	Adults, 19 and older.
When:	Tuesdays, June 15 - July 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Where:	Tarnhill Park, Field #2, 9650 Little Rd.
Cost:	\$45 Resident; \$50 Non-resident. Includes team shirt.
Register:	Call Parks and Recreation.

ADULT SPORTS



SUMMER SAND VOLLEYBALL
WOMEN’S AND CO-REC LEAGUES

TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR bringing one recreation volleyball.

When: Evenings, June 7 – August 20 (10 weeks).

Where: Dred Scott Playfield.

Cost: \$185 Recreation Leagues; \$240 Refereed Leagues.

Deadline: May 7.

DAYTIME VOLLEYBALL

EXERCISE AND ENJOY VOLLEYBALL DURING the mornings at the Bloomington National Guard Training Center, 3300 W. 98th St. Teams are formed each week.

When: All year, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$1.25 per session.

BORN AGAIN JOCKS

GET ACTIVE, KEEP PHYSICALLY FIT AND enjoy a great bond of friendship with Born Again Jocks (BAJ). Begun in 1984, BAJ is an organization for men, 55 years and over, who want to participate in various activities including golf, softball, volleyball, bowling and horseshoes. In addition, BAJ holds social functions, volunteers with community organizations and awards scholarships to high school seniors. There are no membership dues; a pancake breakfast fundraiser is held once a year. For more information, call Arnie Johnson at 952-948-2808.



TO YOUR HEALTH
WALKING BENEFITS
YOUR BODY AND MIND

STEP OUT THE FRONT DOOR AND START walking - you’re already on your way to better health.

Walking decreases the risk of coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke and other chronic diseases. It improves self-esteem, mood and is a good antidote for stress. If you have been inactive, check with your doctor before beginning any exercise program.

To reap health benefits, walk for at least 30 minutes a day; walk at a brisk pace (breathing should be noticeable but you should still be able to carry on a conversation); and drink water before, during and after exercise.

Visit hiking and walking trails around Bloomington including Smith Park, Normandale Lake and Hyland Park. For a list of trails, visit the City’s Web site ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywor: Trails, or call 953-563-8904. *Seniors, see Patchwork Program, page 7.*

BLOOMINGTON WOMEN’S TENNIS CLUB

ORGANIZED IN 1973, THIS CLUB PROMOTES NEW FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH A SINGLES tennis ladder and doubles leagues. All levels of players, beginners to advanced, are encouraged to participate. Three doubles leagues will be offered again this year.

When: Advanced Intermediate: Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Intermediate: Thursdays.

MEN’S DOUBLES LEAGUE

FIND A STEADY PARTNER AND PLAY ONCE A WEEK, BEGINNING IN JUNE. Maximum 12 teams per division.

When: Advanced Intermediate: Mondays.
Advanced: Tuesdays.

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Where: Valley View Playfield.

Cost: \$76.50 per team.

Register: By Friday, May 14.

MEN’S TENNIS LADDER - SINGLES PLAY

OFFERS BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED LEVELS OF PLAY WITH A MINIMUM of one match per month.

When: June 1 – August 31.

Cost: \$28.

Register: By Friday, May 21.

**SENIOR TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB
BLOOMINGTON CHAPTER 55 AND OVER**

JOIN THIS FRIENDLY AND LIVELY GROUP EVERY WEEKDAY MORNING AT THE COURTS. It’s free!

When: Monday – Friday, April 5 – September 24, 7 – 9 a.m.

Where: Valley View Courts.

Contact: Cliff McMinn, 952-888-4989.

When: Monday – Friday, May 3 – September 27, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Where: Dred Scott Courts.

Contact: Don Snyder, 952-830-9415.



COURTS AND PLAYFIELDS
VALLEY VIEW: 9000 PORTLAND AVE. S.
DRED SCOTT: 10820 BLOOMINGTON FERRY RD.

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS IS LOCATED IN THE BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND Old Shakopee Road. This first-class facility houses eight organizations that comprise the Bloomington Fine Arts Council (BFAC). For more information, call the BFAC at 952-563-8567.

THURSDAY MUSICAL

THURSDAY MUSICAL MORNING ARTIST Series will present the final concert of the season on **Thursday, April 22, at 10:30 a.m.** in the **Schneider Theater**. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 612-333-0313.

MEDALIST CONCERT BAND

THE MEDALIST CONCERT BAND presents “An American Celebration” at the **Schneider Theater** on **Thursday, May 20, at 8 p.m.** For more information, call 952-563-8583.

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER
GALLERY PLAYERS

Tickets for the performances, held in the Black Box Theater, are \$7.

FATHER OF THE BRIDE

This reenactment of the 1950s radio play will be held **Thursday – Saturday, April 22 – 24, at 7:30 p.m.**

A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM

The prose and poetry of Edgar Allen Poe will come alive in this one-man play starring James Thomas on **Saturday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m.**

THE FABULOUS FABLE FACTORY

This Bloomington Night Lion’s Club sponsored children’s ensemble production will be held **Thursday – Saturday, May 13 – 15* at 7:30 p.m.**

**May 15 – ASL interpreted.*

EXHIBITIONS

Hours: M – F 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Sa 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Su 1 p.m. – 10 p.m.

GREENBERG GALLERY

Running from **April 16 – May 28** are two exhibits by three artists. **Forms and Figures** show the bold, abstract style of Megan Bell’s large oil and smaller mixed-media paintings, and the clay sculptures of Gary DeCosse. **Meditations on Chance** spotlights artist Terry Genesen-Becker’s collection of 52 watercolor paintings based on the cards of the Mexican children’s game, De Loteria. Opening reception for both exhibits is **Friday, April 16, from 6 – 8 p.m.**



"Morning on the Lake," an oil painting, by Reid P. Galey.

ATRIUM GALLERY

STREAMS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Russian artist Alexandra Rozenman tells stories through her watercolor and oil paintings from **March 17 – April 23**. Opening reception is **Saturday, March 20, from 5 – 7 p.m.**

SUBTLITIES OF LIGHT

View Reid P. Galey’s stunning oil paintings of American landscapes from **April 28 – June 18**. Opening reception is **Thursday, April 29, 6 – 8 p.m.**

PREPARE FOR THE CLEANUP!

- Put out materials **no more than two days before** your scheduled pick-up.
- Set materials **at the curb before 7 a.m.** on your curbside pick-up day.
- **Trucks will go through only once** on your scheduled day. If you miss the curbside pick-up, call your trash hauler who will pick up your refuse for a fee.
- **Seniors or residents who are disabled:** Unable to handle the materials? Contact your Neighborhood Watch block captains – or call the Human Services Information Line for volunteer availability, 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

SCHEDULE

Location	Regular trash day is:	Curbside pickup is Saturday:
East of Portland	Monday	April 17
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	April 24
Penn to France	Wednesday	May 1
France to Normandale	Thursday	May 8*
West of Normandale	Friday	May 22

* Please note date change.

QUESTIONS?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL RECYCLING AT 952-563-8750.

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

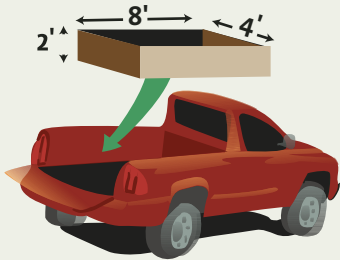
- **General junk:** Boxed or bundled – under 100 pounds per item. No scrap metal or household trash, such as food.
- **Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, etc. Limit TWO appliances per house. For appliance pick-up, call 952-930-1828 by 4:30 p.m., the Friday before pick-up date.



- **Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.
- **Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Office desks, clothesline poles, swing sets are examples of large scrap metal. Remove wood, rubber, cement - all nonmetal materials. NO cast iron tubs or items over 150 pounds. Take items that fit into an automobile to the Hennepin County Problem Facility for recycling. *See box below.*

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- **Unusable furniture:** Disassemble hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open during handling.
- **Mattresses/box springs.**
- **Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails. NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.
- **BUNDLED brush:** Branches smaller than four inches in diameter and five feet in length. Includes buckthorn. For more on buckthorn, *see page 7.*



OPTIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

HENNEPIN COUNTY PROBLEM WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITY

1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777

TU, TH, F 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
W 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
SA 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

NEW! Now accepting non-refillable propane/butane cylinders at no charge.

- **Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, solvents and other household chemicals.



- **Tires and batteries.**
- **Electronic goods:** TVs, computers, stereos.
- **Recyclable materials:** Bottles, cans, paper.
- **Gas-powered, refrigeration appliances:** Camper/other fridges, air conditioners – call ahead, 612-348-5832.
- **Small scrap metal** that fit into a car trunk.

BURNSVILLE LANDFILL

952-890-3248

- Concrete/bricks.
- Porcelain: Tubs, sinks.
- Shingles (No asbestos).

NSP COMPOSTING

Burnsville, 952-736-1915

- Leaves, grass clippings, sod.
- Stumps, logs.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION HEROES

KIM AND STEVE, THE “SHORELINE RESTORATION DUO”

IN 1997, KIM AND STEVE MOVED INTO their home located along the shore of one of Bloomington's ponds. Wanting to spruce up the backyard, they attended a seminar on how to landscape for wildlife and water quality.

Doing all the work themselves, the couple began landscaping with various plantings that not only enhance the beauty of their backyard, but also reduce mowing. Along the shoreline they let the native grasses grow, creating a natural buffer.

“A natural buffer stops erosion,” Kim said. “It protects water bodies from pollutants that can run off lawns and it also provides a habitat for wildlife.”

The couple cares for their yard by pulling weeds by hand and using organic fertilizer.

“We found that chemical fertilizer doesn't have the staying power of organic fertilizer,” Steve said. “Our lawn stays green because it is healthy and we use no chemicals that can pollute the pond.”

Kim and Steve said although landscaping can be a lot of work, they have a beautiful yard for their efforts. They feel that there are many advantages to protecting the pond.

“We get so much enjoyment from the variety of colors and from the birds, butterflies and other wildlife that the native grasses and plants attract,” Kim said. “It also feels great to know that you're doing the right thing.”

Keep up the good work, Kim and Steve!

PROTECT OUR RIVERS AND

LAKES AND STREAMS

USE PHOSPHORUS-FREE LAWN FERTILIZER

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WATER bodies, the State Legislature and City of Bloomington restrict the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. Excessive phosphorus in lawn fertilizer and from other sources, such as leaves and grass clippings that are swept into streets, can enter storm water runoff and degrade the quality of nearby water bodies. Purchase phosphorus-free fertilizer or verify that your lawn care service does not use fertilizer that contains phosphorus. For more information, call 952-563-4867.

How can you tell if the fertilizer you purchase is phosphorus-free? Check the middle number on the bag – it should be zero.





METRO PAINT-A-THON APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

SENIOR CITIZENS AND THOSE WITH disabilities whose homes are in need of a fresh coat of paint are encouraged to apply for the 2004 Metro Paint-A-Thon to be held **August 7 - 8**. Homeowners must meet income guidelines. Homes are inspected and ranked in terms of need. Application deadline is May 10. For more information, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



GIVE BUCKTHORN THE BOOT HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF THIS NOXIOUS WEED

BUCKTHORN GROWS QUICKLY, CHOKING out beneficial native trees, shrubs and wildflowers that also support wildlife. As areas around the city become infested with buckthorn, other problems result including soil erosion and poor water quality. Help stop the spread of buckthorn by removing it from your property. You can also volunteer to remove buckthorn in parks through the City's Adopt-a-Park program. Free tool kits that include a weed wrench and loppers are available for removing small plants. For more information, call 952-563-8751. *See page 6 for disposal options.*

CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES DIVERSITY DAY EVENT

IN CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY DAY, Bloomington High School students and community members will join together for a "Run for Peace" race on **Thursday, April 22**. A dedication ceremony to proclaim Kennedy High School as an Official Peace Site will be held after the run. Jefferson High School, already an Official Peace Site, will hold a rededication ceremony. For information, call 952-563-8733; 952-563-8740 V/TTY.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2004 CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

ATTEND THE SALES OR HOLD YOUR OWN

WHEN CLEANING OUT FOR THE CURBSIDE CLEANUP, DID YOU COME ACROSS ITEMS THAT you could sell? Why not hold your own garage sale at this three-day event sponsored by Human Services? The 5th Annual Citywide Garage Sale will be held **June 3, 4 and 5**.

Registration is \$20 and includes a yard sign, advertising and individual listing in the official registry of sale addresses. Deadline is May 19.

Purchase your official garage sale list for \$2 beginning June 1 at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, or Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Lists are also available on the City's Web Site. Proceeds benefit the Senior Program. For information, call Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



LIVING GREEN EXPO 2004 BENEFIT FROM A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE LIFE

MORE THAN 200 exhibitors will showcase environmentally sound products, services and practices at Minnesota's Living Green Expo, **Saturday - Sunday, May 1 - 2**, from **10 a.m. - 6 p.m.** This family-friendly event will be held in the Education Building at the **Minnesota State Fair Grounds**, 1265 Snelling Avenue North, St. Paul, and includes art displays, children's activities, food and entertainment. For information, visit www.livinggreenexpo.org or call Jeff Stuhr at 651-215-0218.



BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION (BSCO) BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, USA – IZUMI CITY, JAPAN

SINCE 1993, BLOOMINGTON HAS ENJOYED A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL SISTER CITY relationship with Izumi City, Japan. BSCO works to establish friendships, build understanding and develop economic relationships between the two cities. For more information, call Lorinda Pearson at 952-563-8735.

JAPANESE DELEGATION TO VISIT IN MAY

A Japanese middle school brass band delegation of 40 students, eight chaperones, and Izumi City Mayor Inada and his wife will visit Bloomington, May 12 - 17. During their stay, Izumi City students will perform in concert with Bloomington's middle school students.



CELEBRATE KITE DAY

In honor of Children's Day, a Japanese national holiday that celebrates the health and happiness of all children, BSCO and the City of Bloomington present Kite Day 2004. Bring your own kite; make one or buy one on site. This free family event will be held at **Valley View Playfields**, 90th and Portland, on **Saturday, May 15, at 1 p.m.**

YOUTH SERVICE DAYS OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

HEY KIDS! PLANT A TREE. CLEAN UP A PARK OR STREET. GET INVOLVED WITH YOUTH service opportunities coordinated by Human Services throughout the month of April. Youth who volunteer for City-sponsored programs will be invited to attend the Mayor's Volunteer Breakfast Buffet and be recognized for their work. For more information, call 952-563-8787; 952-563-8740 TTY, or e-mail kstone@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree at West Bush Lake on Saturday, May 1.



ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR YOU

LOCATED AT 9801 PENN AVENUE SOUTH, **Creekside Community Center** houses the Human Service's Senior Program. For information on activities, call 952-563-4948; 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

CREEKSIDE MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

THE SENIOR PROGRAM WILL host a variety of events in May to celebrate Older Americans' Month, including:

- Older Americans' Month Breakfast.
 - National Senior Health/Fitness Day and Fun Walk.
 - Spring Music Show.
 - Special Life is Like a Valued Patchwork program.
- For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

LIFE IS LIKE A VALUED PATCHWORK

LIFE IS LIKE A VALUED PATCHWORK programs are held on Wednesdays, from 9:15-10:30 a.m. at Creekside. Cost is \$3 and includes a continental breakfast. To register, call Creekside. For transportation, call 952-563-4948.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 28 | Walking for the Health of It. |
| May 19 | Improving Your Golf Game. |
| June 23 | Advance Funeral Planning. |

ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDES ASSISTANCE for families in need. For more information, call Denise Royer, Alissa Beckman or Jackie Doncavage at Creekside.

Furniture referrals

Lower income families who are in need of basic furniture may be eligible to receive these items through the nonprofit organization Bridging, Inc. Those with limited furniture due to a fire or domestic abuse situation may also be eligible.

Working through issues

Support teams are made up of individuals who can help you identify your goals. If you are a Bloomington family with children under 18 years of age and are working with multiple complex issues including housing, school or employment, you are eligible for assistance through the support team process. This program is aided and supported through a grant from the Hennepin South Services Collaborative.



TUNE IN TO A GREAT RESOURCE DON'T JUST WATCH TV, BECOME A PART OF IT!

IF YOU HAVE EVER WANTED TO produce your own television show: Don't touch that dial. Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT) lets you explore the medium of television – behind the scenes.

At BCAT, individuals and organizations learn the basics of television production by working independently, or with other members, to create television shows. If you live or work in Bloomington you can use the facility. Completed programs air on Cable Channel 16.



Production Specialist Amanda Taylor provides technical support and instruction. Taylor says you can create the kind of television programming that you want to watch.

"We are looking for new shows and invite the public to come in and bring their ideas to life," Taylor said.

Some shows currently airing on Channel 16 include *Experiencia Latina*, providing health and safety information for the Hispanic community as well as entertainment for all audiences; *Cinema Judge*, giving viewers behind-the-scenes clips and interviews with actors and directors from the latest movies; and *Quest for Truth*, presenting a spiritual look at community and personal happiness through interviews with community leaders.

For information, visit BCAT on the City's Web site www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: BCAT, or call Amanda Taylor at 952-563-4980.

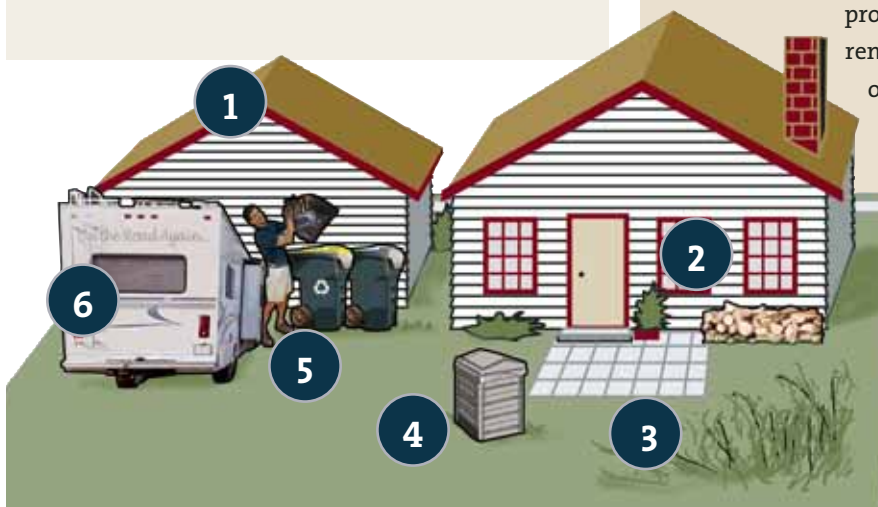
UP TO CODE

KEEP OUR CITY LOOKING GOOD

RESIDENTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN MAINTAINING our city's quality and appearance. The City has standards describing how property owners must maintain buildings and grounds, and relies on concerned residents to maintain their property and notify the City if a neighborhood property is becoming a problem. Here are some city codes regulating your house, neighborhood and pets. **Report an eyesore, nuisance or ordinance violation by calling Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.**

STORAGE

- 1 Materials, machinery and equipment must be stored in a building or be fully screened from view.
- 2 Firewood stack sizes and location are regulated.

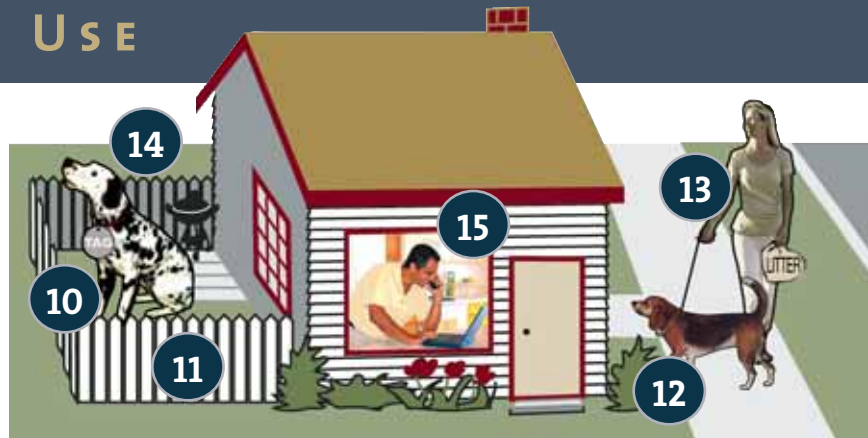


REFUSE, LITTER AND WEEDS

- 3 Grass and weeds must be cut before they reach one foot high.
- 4 Compost piles must be screened and located in the rear yard at least 10 feet from property lines. Place grass clippings and leaves in the pile to be composted or have them removed by the garbage hauler.
- 5 Waste, debris and refuse must be kept in an enclosed building or a closed container and stored from view of the street. Homes and businesses must have weekly refuse and recycling service.

PARKING OF VEHICLES

- 6 Vehicles must be parked in the garage or on the driveway. In certain circumstances, RVs may be stored in the back or side yard. For more on RVs, visit our Web site, keywords: Recreational vehicle.



PETS

- 10 All dogs and cats must be licensed annually with the City and display their tags at all times. Rabies vaccination certificates for dogs and cats are required.

- 11 Dog enclosures must be screened from view of adjacent properties and be set back 10 feet from lot lines and 50 feet from adjacent homes.

- 12 Animal feces on public and private property must be removed by the pet owner.

- 13 Dogs must be kept under restraint by leash, a fence or voice command.

- 14 Frequent, continued barking is prohibited. **If you have a pet complaint, call Animal Control at 952-563-4942.**

HOME OCCUPATIONS

- 15 Certain occupations are prohibited in residential zones, including manufacturing, retail, where the customer comes to the home, and repair businesses. Businesses that operate only by phone or mail are generally permitted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEB SITE, KEYWORD: ENVIRONMENTAL.



- 7 Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles must be stored in a garage or be fully screened from view.

- 8 Number of vehicles parked at a home is limited to the number of people with driver's licenses plus one.

- 9 Non-residential vehicles and vehicles longer than 22 feet and/or

higher than seven feet six inches may not park in residential areas, except when rendering a service or during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. when they may parked in the operator's driveway. For more information on large vehicles, visit our Web site, keywords: Motor vehicle ordinance.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

GRANGE HALL – 1890

GRANGE HALL WAS BLOOMINGTON'S hub of activity in the late 1800s. Also known as Oak Grove Hall, the building was erected in 1874 by members of Grange Chapter 482, a farming organization. Grange Hall stood next to Baillif Store near 102nd Street and Penn Avenue. Early town meetings were held there until a town hall was constructed next door in 1892. Grange Hall was also the scene of many dances. The young people attending usually held waxing parties afterward to avoid paying a ten-dollar fee to wax the floors.



Minnesota Historical Society